



NEWS

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CONTACT: Ralph Borrmann
415.749.4900

Air District settles case with Chemtrade West US LLC *Company to pay \$135,000 for air quality violations*

SAN FRANCISCO – Today the Bay Area Air Quality Management District announced that it has settled a case against Chemtrade West US LLC for air pollution violations at its chemical plant in Richmond. Chemtrade will pay \$135,000 in civil penalties.

Chemtrade supplies various chemical products to industry, including sulfuric acid, which is a byproduct of refining crude oil.

“Industrial facilities located in the region are expected to follow strict air quality rules which limit air pollution or be subject to vigorous enforcement action from the Air District,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “This settlement will help prevent future violations and protect the local community.”

The settlement covers two notices of violation issued for non-compliance at the operation between 2009 - 2014. Chemtrade acquired the facility in January 2014 from its predecessor, General Chemical West, LLC. Many of the violations addressed occurred during General Chemical’s ownership of the facility.

Some of the violations were uncovered during a voluntary audit conducted by Chemtrade after it purchased the facility and others were discovered by the Air District.

The notices of violation included:

- The unpermitted loading of alkylation acid from storage tanks into trucks on 18 days, resulting in potential sulfur dioxide, sulfuric acid, and precursor organic compound emissions. To prevent recurrence, Chemtrade removed the loading arm so that materials can no longer be unlawfully loaded at that source.
- The failure to use back-up abatement devices when sulfuric acid was loaded into tanks; failure to verify the proper operation of the same abatement devices; failure to use an emergency back-up abatement device to prevent sulfur dioxide emissions; and certain monitoring, recordkeeping and reporting violations.

The violations that led to this settlement have been corrected. All settlement funds will be used to fund Air District activities such as the inspection and enforcement activities that led to this settlement.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area.

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